

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 36 and 43-47 are pending. Claim 48-52 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 36 and 43-47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Moulding et al. (USP 5,344,043 referred to as Moulding). Applicants respectfully traverse each and every aspect of this rejection. As to the rejection of claims 36 and 43-47, Moulding does not disclose a method of coiling a medicament carrier in preparation for loading the coiled medicament carrier into a housing, as claimed in claim 36.

In the Office Action, the Office suggests that Moulding teaches the use of Applicant's claimed invention as shown Moulding, Figure 7 and objects **15** and **17**, described in column 5, line 13-23. This is clearly not the case. Applicant's invention is a method of coiling a medicament carrier **in preparation for loading** the coiled carrier into a housing of a medicament dispenser. In short, this is a pre-coiling method. In the claimed pre-coiling method, the carrier with medicament doses therein is formed into a coil on a rotating spindle. Moreover, as the spindle rotates, the spindle and the carrier are moved in a common lateral sense. In terms of moving the carrier in a lateral sense, this means that the carrier is moved towards the spindle as the spindle rotates. This is known as "dynamic coiling" and avoids tension being generated in the carrier which may cause deformation therein.

There is absolutely no disclosure in Moulding of pre-coiling a medicament carrier; that is to say, forming the carrier with its medicament doses into a coil prior to loading the coil into the dispenser housing. According to Moulding at column 5, line 61 to column 6, line 8, the dispenser is filled with the medication units "by rotating the storage reel **20** while introducing medication units into the dispenser one by one at the separation zone **19**" so that the medication units are

introduced “one by one between the bands **15** and **17** as they are wound on reel **20**”. The storage reel **20** is a component inside the dispenser housing. Thus, the filling operation in Moulding, which results in the bands **15,17** forming a coil on the storage reel **20** with the medication units trapped between the bands **15,17**, as shown in e.g. Figure 4, is not pre-coiling as the coil is not formed preparatory to loading into the dispenser housing. Instead, the coiling takes place inside the dispenser housing.

Thus, Moulding does not doesn’t teach the claimed process expressly or inherently for this reason alone.

Further to the above, it is also to be observed that Moulding does not disclose dynamic coiling, since there is no disclosure of moving the bands **15,17** in a lateral sense as the storage reel **20** rotates to form the coil thereon. Yet further, there is no disclosure in Moulding of the storage reel **20** being moved in a lateral sense as the storage reel **20** rotates to form the coil thereon.

In summary, there is clearly no anticipatory disclosure or suggestion in Moulding of a number of the elements of the claimed invention. Thus, the claims are new and non-obvious.

As claim 36 is novel and inventive, so too are the remaining claims by dependency. The Applicant reserves the right to argue for separate patentability of the dependent claims, if the need ever arises.

Applicant asserts that the application is in a condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby requested.

Should any minor issues remain that preclude issuance of a Notice of Allowance, The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (919) 483-9995.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 15, 2010

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